LIGHTNING COMICS
1
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JUNE
Claire Voyante
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JOHN LEARY '96

ClaireVoyante #1

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CLAIRE VOYANTE #1. FIRST PRINTING. JUNE, 1996. Price: $3.50 for reg. edition.; $5.95 for Comm. edition; $9.95 for Nude editions (U.S. currency). Published by Lightning Entertainment, Inc. Copyright © and Trademark ™ 1996, Joseph A. Zyskowski and Steven V. Zyskowski. All rights reserved. Office of publication: 31155 Portside, Ste. #7109, Novi, MI 48377. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this publication is intended and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincindental. CLAIRE VOYANTE (including all predominant characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likeness thereof) is a trademark of Joseph A. Zyskowski and Steven V. Zyskowski. Printed in Canada.

Dear CLAIRE VOYANTE Reader;

Thank you for purchasing this issue of CLAIRE VOYANTE#1. We wanted to take a moment to explain a bit about Claire's history and how this 48 page mega-issue came to be.

Lightning Comics first began publishing comics for national distribution in June, 1993. We released three full color, monthly, ongoing series: BLOODFIRE; JUDGMENT DAY and PERG. Our intent was to have each series remain in publication for a long, long time . . . but events beyond our control changed things dramatically.

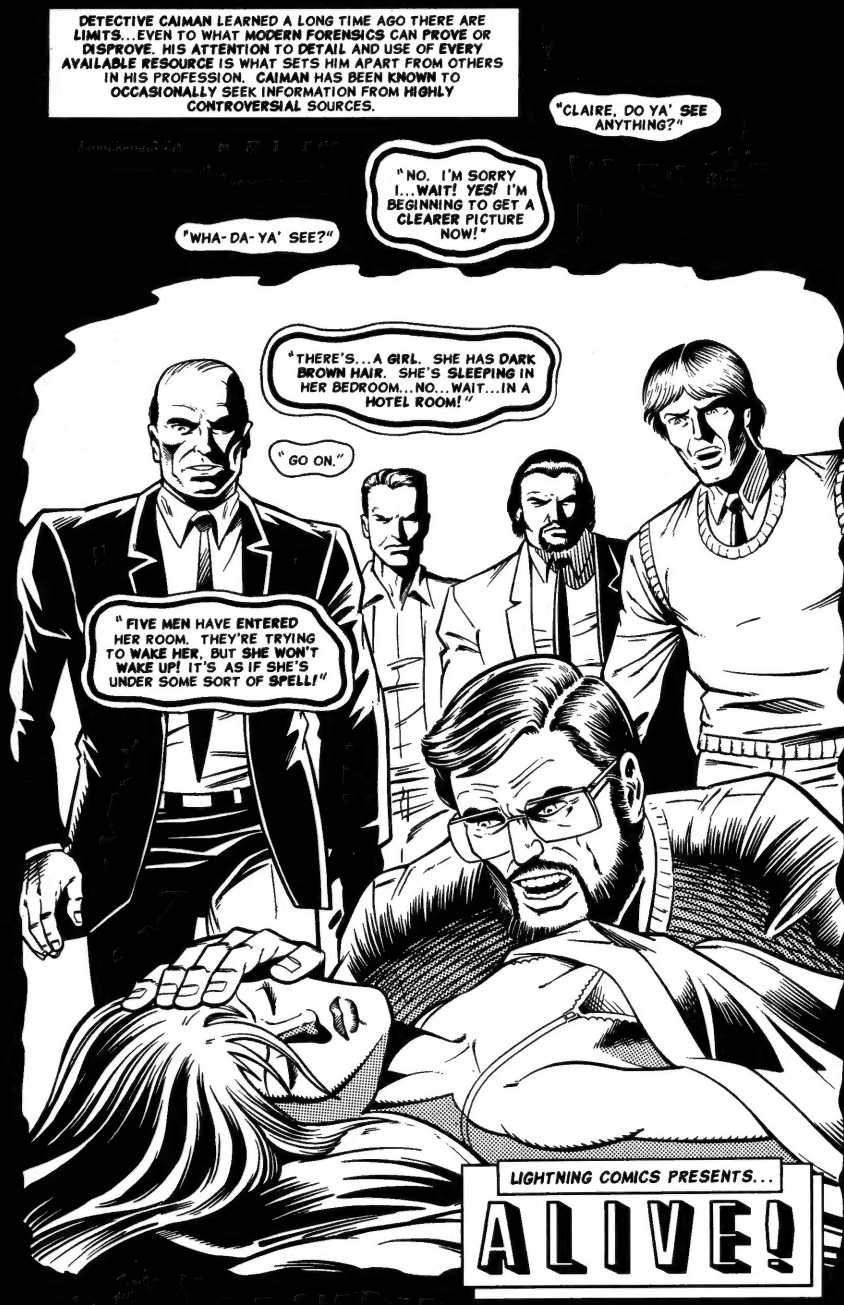
1994 was a bad year in comics, affectionately referred to as the year of "the crash." In the years before, comics were printed in record numbers. Lightning Comics wasn't even a year old when the comic market began to fall apart. We watched as orders for BLOODFIRE, JUDGMENT DAY and PERG decreased month after month. We continued to print many color books, even though we were guaranteed to lose money on them, because we expected the market to turn around. By March, 1994, our orders for PERG #6 (a full color comic) dropped to around 12,000 copies (compared to 22,000 copies of PERG #2 in November, 1993). In April, 1994, orders for PERG #7 dropped to about 10,000 copies. In May, 1994, PERG #8 had orders for 8,000 copies. PERG #9 had orders for a mere 6,000 copies in full color!

PERG issues #9 and #10 were completely penciled, inked, lettered and ready to go . . . but the orders weren't there for these books to see print. In PERG #9, an eighteen year old female psychic, named Claire Voyante, was introduced to the PERG story line.

This issue of CLAIRE VOYANTE #1 embodies the never before released issues of PERG #9 and #10. Because Claire played such a dominant role in these two issues, we felt this 48 page mega-comic would be an appropriate introduction to this exciting new character. Lightning Comics plans on releasing future CLAIRE VOYANTE stories, that explore Claire's quirky character and take you along on her spine tingling psychic adventures!

We hope you enjoy this mega-issue of CLAIRE VOYANTE #1 and that you'll tell your retailer you want future issues of Claire. We promise you won't want to miss them! Also, if you enjoy the deep story line and interesting plot twists in this issue, we're certain you would enjoy reading back issues of PERG and present issues of HELLINA, our popular "bad girl" who debuted in PERG #4!

Again, thank you for purchasing Lightning Comics. Our books remain dedicated . . . to you!

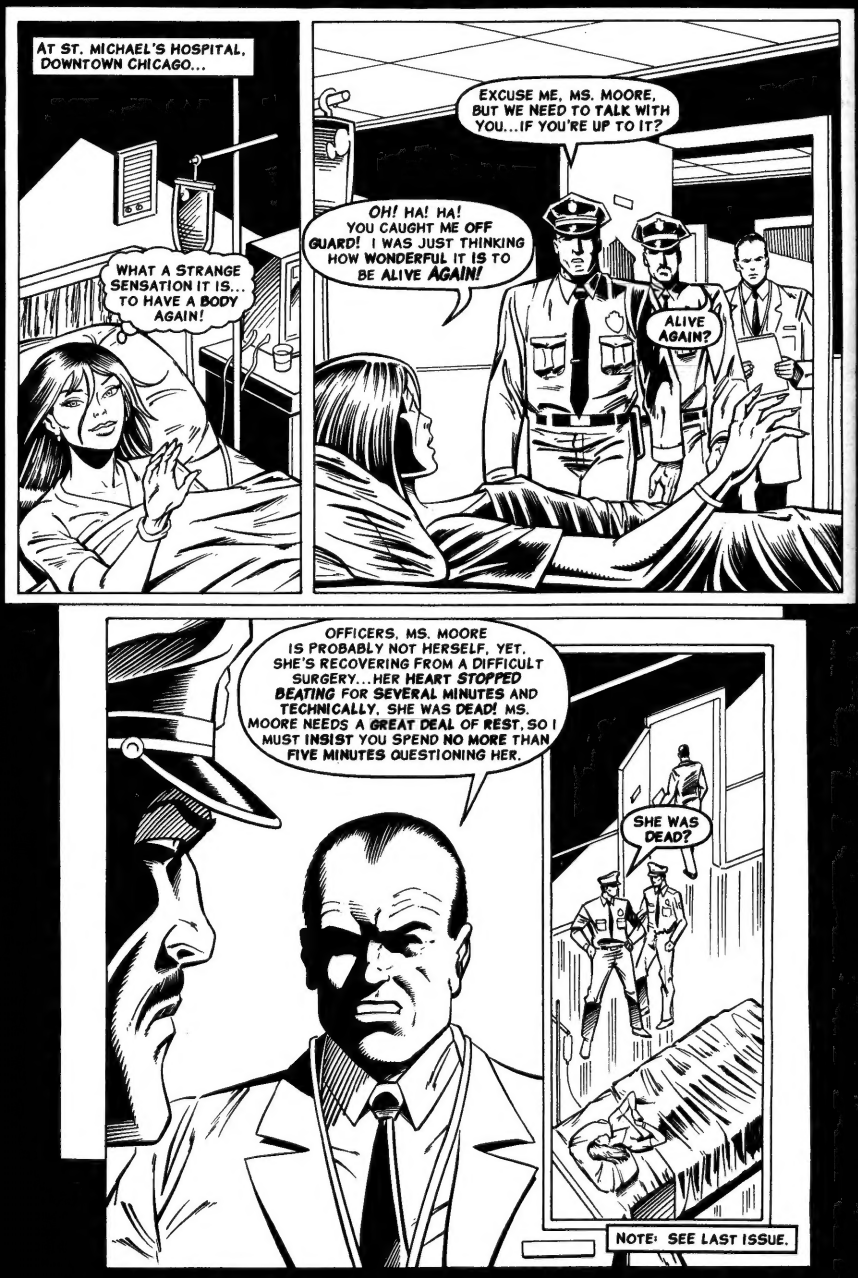

DETECTIVE CAIMAN LEARNED A LONG TIME AGO THERE ARE LIMITS...EVEN TO WHAT MODERN FORENSICS CAN PROVE OR DISPROVE. HIS ATTENTION TO DETAIL AND USE OF EVERY AVAILABLE RESOURCE IS WHAT SETS HIM APART FROM OTHERS IN HIS PROFESSION. CAIMAN HAS BEEN KNOWN TO OCCASIONALLY SEEK INFORMATION FROM HIGHLY CONTROVERSIAL SOURCES.
"CLAIRE, DO YA' SEE ANYTHING?"
"NO. I'M SORRY I...WAIT! YES! I'M BEGINNING TO GET A CLEARER PICTURE NOW!"
"WHA-DA-YA' SEE?"
"THERE'S...A GIRL. SHE HAS DARK BROWN HAIR. SHE'S SLEEPING IN HER BEDROOM...NO...WAIT...IN A HOTEL ROOM!"
"GO ON."
"FIVE MEN HAVE ENTERED HER ROOM. THEY'RE TRYING TO WAKE HER, BUT SHE WON'T WAKE UP! IT'S AS IF SHE'S UNDER SOME SORT OF SPELL!"
LIGHTNING COMICS PRESENTS...
ALIVE!

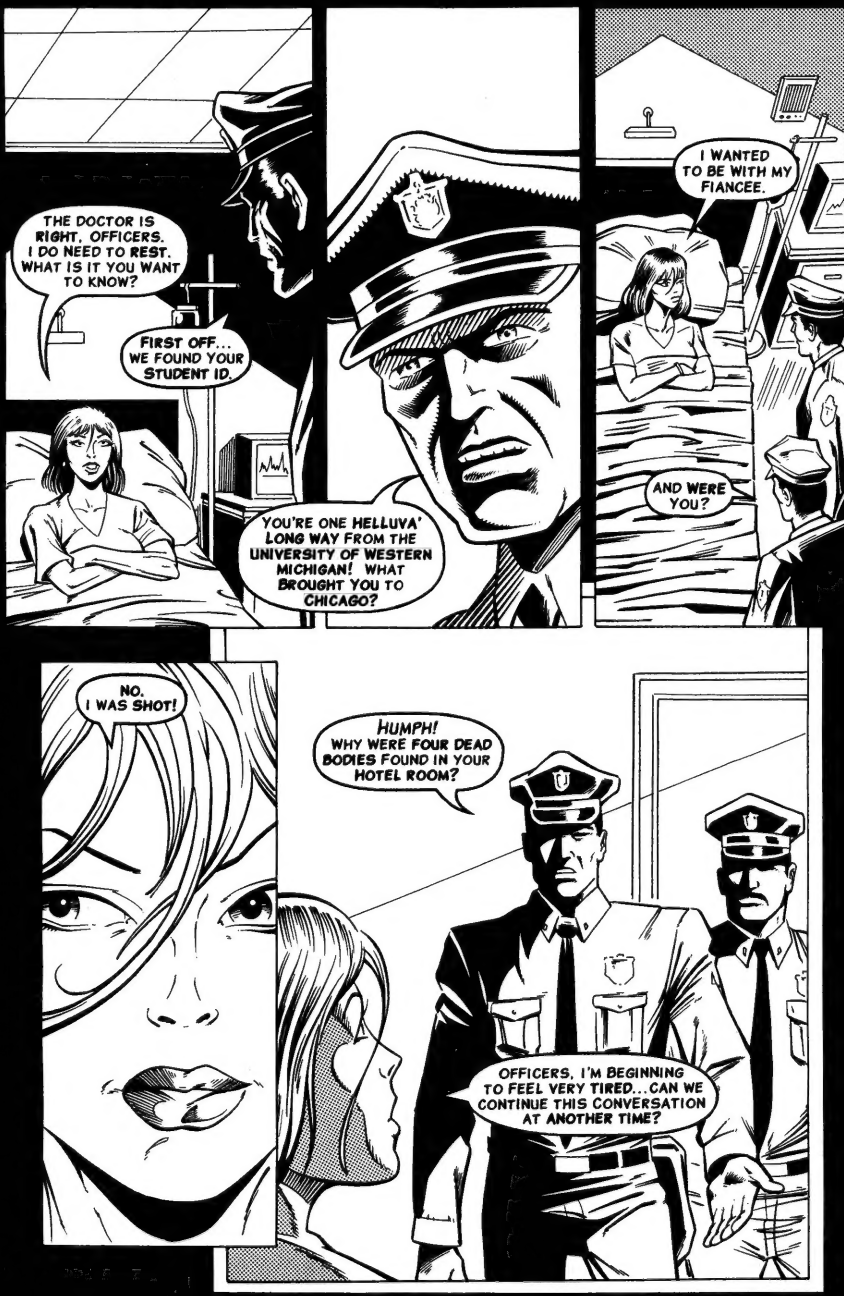
YOU'RE DOIN' GOOD, CLAIRE. KEEP GOIN'... WHAT ELSE DO YA' SEE?
A WOMAN HAS JUST ENTERED THE ROOM. SHE'S EVIL... SHE'S SO VERY, VERY EVIL! SHE HAS BLOOD ON HER HANDS...FROM KILLING MEN WHO STOOD GUARD IN THE HALL...AND SHE'S GOING TO KILL AGAIN!
WHAT'S 'ER NAME?
HELEN? HELEAN? NO...HELLINA!
DESCRIBE 'ER TO ME.
SHE HAS LONG BLONDE HAIR AND BLUE EYES. SHE'S WEARING RED LINGERIE AND A RED CAPE.
WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW, CLAIRE?
OH! SHE'S...SHE'S KILLING THE MEN IN THE ROOM!
HOW IS SHE KILLING THEM?
WITH HER BARE HANDS! OH! SHE'S RIPPING THEIR HEARTS OUT!

IT'S OK, CLAIRE... TRY TO RELAX! YOU'RE NOT IN ANY DANGER. NOW, FOCUS...AN' TELL ME WHAT ELSE YOU SEE!
HELLINA... IS APPROACHING THE LAST MAN.
DO YOU KNOW HIS NAME?
BERT? BART? NO...BARTON!
DESCRIBE 'IM TO ME.
HE HAS SHORT BROWN HAIR, A BEARD AND MUSTACHE. HE'S WEARING SLACKS, A SWEATER VEST OVER A DRESS SHIRT AND...HE'S WEARING GLASSES.
WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW?
SHE'S STRUCK HIM!
IS HE DEAD?
NO. UNCONSCIOUS

GO ON, CLAIRE.
HELLINA IS NOW WALKING TOWARD THE SLEEPING GIRL!
SHE'S PICKING HER UP... AND CARRYING HER OUT OF THE ROOM! SHE'S GOING TO KILL HER!
KEEP GOING, CLAIRE! IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE? TELL ME!
I'M SORRY, I CAN'T. EVERYTHING HAS GONE BLANK.
IT'S OK, CLAIRE. YOU DID GREAT!
REALLY?
YEAH. AMAZING... AS USUAL.

YA' KNOW... THERE'S ONE LAST FAVOR I'D LIKE TO ASK...
YOU KNOW I CAN'T STAND LOOKIN' AT THOSE PHOTOS!
I DON'T KNOW WHY? YOU'VE PRACTICALLY BEEN AT THE CRIME SCENE!
I KNOW... BUT IT NEVER SEEMS REAL UNTIL I SEE THE PHOTOGRAPHS!
JUST TAKE A LOOK, OK? AN' TELL ME IF YOU RECOGNIZE THE PEOPLE IN THIS PICTURE.
OH, MY GAWD!


AT ST. MICHAEL'S HOSPITAL, DOWNTOWN CHICAGO...
WHAT A STRANGE SENSATION IT IS... TO HAVE A BODY AGAIN!
EXCUSE ME, MS. MOORE, BUT WE NEED TO TALK WITH YOU...IF YOU'RE UP TO IT?
OH! HA! HA! YOU CAUGHT ME OFF GUARD! I WAS JUST THINKING HOW WONDERFUL IT IS TO BE ALIVE AGAIN!
ALIVE AGAIN?
OFFICERS, MS. MOORE IS PROBABLY NOT HERSELF, YET. SHE'S RECOVERING FROM A DIFFICULT SURGERY...HER HEART STOPPED BEATING FOR SEVERAL MINUTES AND TECHNICALLY, SHE WAS DEAD! MS. MOORE NEEDS A GREAT DEAL OF REST, SO I MUST INSIST YOU SPEND NO MORE THAN FIVE MINUTES QUESTIONING HER.
SHE WAS DEAD?
NOTE: SEE LAST ISSUE.


THE DOCTOR IS RIGHT, OFFICERS. I DO NEED TO REST. WHAT IS IT YOU WANT TO KNOW?
FIRST OFF... WE FOUND YOUR STUDENT ID.
YOU'RE ONE HELLUVA' LONG WAY FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN MICHIGAN! WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO CHICAGO?
I WANTED TO BE WITH MY FIANCEE.
AND WERE YOU?
NO. I WAS SHOT!
HUMPH! WHY WERE FOUR DEAD BODIES FOUND IN YOUR HOTEL ROOM?
OFFICERS, I'M BEGINNING TO FEEL VERY TIRED...CAN WE CONTINUE THIS CONVERSATION AT ANOTHER TIME?

MS. MOORE, JUST ONE MORE QUESTION AND, UH, WE'LL BE ON OUR WAY, OK? I'M KINDA' CURIOUS... WHEN YOU WERE DEAD...DID YOU SEE ANY ANGELS OR ANYTHING?
CERTAINLY, I DID! I WAS AN ANGEL! IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL AND UPLIFTING EXPERIENCE, BUT YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW HAPPY I AM TO BE IN THIS BODY, NOW!
I CAN ONLY IMAGINE!
THANK YOU, MS. MOORE. THAT'LL BE ALL FOR NOW. WE'LL GET BACK WITH YOU IN A FEW DAYS...WHEN YOU'VE HAD A CHANCE TO...PUT THINGS TOGETHER A LITTLE BETTER.
HAVE A NICE DAY.
YOU, TOO, OFFICERS!
HEY, WHAT WAS WITH THAT ACCENT? SOUNDED FRENCH OR SOMETHIN'.
REMIND ME TO ASK HER IF SHE SAW ELVIS WHEN WE RETURN! SHE WAS AN ANGEL! RIIIGHT!

IT'S WONDERFUL TO BE BACK ON EARTH, BUT THESE BODIES HAVE THEIR PROBLEMS. I DON'T HAVE TIME TO LAY AROUND WAITING TO HEAL!
I HAD BEST SPEED UP THE PROCESS.
THAT'S BETTER. NOW I NEED A DISGUISE SO I CAN LEAVE HERE WITHOUT BEING NOTICED.

STAFF
ONLY

SHE LOOKS HELPFUL!
THIS UNIFORM IS EXACTLY WHAT I NEED!

1986
CLICK
TIME TO GET BACK TO MY NEW BODY. THANKS FOR YOUR HELP, NURSE!
WHA...WHAT HAPPENED? HOW'D I GET HERE? I...I BETTER GET BACK TO MY STATION!
TIME FOR ME TO CHANGE AND BE ON MY WAY!

IN ANOTHER PART OF THE WINDY CITY...
HOW DID YOU GET THIS PICTURE?
IT WAS TAKEN AT THE CRIME SCENE YOU JUST DESCRIBED. I THOUGHT THEY MIGHT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MURDERS.
YEAH, I KNOW.
OH, MY GAWD! CAIMAN, DO YOU KNOW WHO'S IN THIS PICTURE? IT'S PERG AND ELIZABETH... RISEN FROM THE DEAD!
HOW CAN YOU BE SO CALM? THIS IS INCREDIBLE! YOU'VE GOT A PICTURE OF THEM! THIS PROVES THEY REALLY DO EXIST! CAIMAN, YOU HAVE TO TELL ME WHAT YOU FOUND...
...WHAT HAPPENED AT THE CRIME SCENE?!

I'D JUST ARRIVED AT THE HOTEL ROOM WHERE PERG AND HIS FRIEND APPEARED. ONE OF OUR OFFICERS SHOT THE GIRL. HER NAME WASN'T ELIZABETH, THOUGH... I THINK IT WAS...
ALLI MOORE! I KNOW!
YOU KNOW? HOW?!
I'M PSYCHIC, REMEMBER?
THEN WHY DO YOU NEED ME TO TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENED?!
OOOH! WHY DO HAVE TO BE SO DIFFICULT?!
TURN AROUND!

WHILE CLAIRE'S TELEPATHIC ABILITIES ARE OCCASIONALLY LIMITED, HER PROPENSITY FOR PATIENCE IS EVEN MORE SO!
BY READING CAIMAN'S MIND SHE IS ABLE TO VISUALIZE WHAT COULD NOT BE DESCRIBED IN WORDS.
LOOK, I GOTTA' GO, CLAIRE. THANKS FER YER INSIGHTS.
YEAH? WELL, WHY SHOULD YOU BE DIFFERENT FROM ANY OTHER WOMAN IN MY LIFE?
DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY TIMES I'VE CONDUCTED SEANCES...TRYING TO SUMMON PERG OR ELIZABETH? OOOH! SOMETIMES YOU MAKE ME SO MAD!
WAIT, CAIMAN... WE HAVE TO GET TO THE HOSPITAL WHERE ALLI MOORE IS STAYING! SOMETHING TERRIBLE IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN!
YOU LUCKY BASTARD!
WHAT?!
WELL, COME ON, THEN!
YES! HE BOUGHT IT! I CAN'T WAIT TO MEET THIS ALLI GIRL!

OFFICER OLIVER DEWLEY HAS BEEN A POLICE PHOTOGRAPHER FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS...LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW WHEN A PICTURE IS WORTH MORE THAN A THOUSAND WORDS.
I 'TAUT YOU WAS ABOVE SELLIN' POLICE SECRETS, DEWLEY! WHY 'DA SUDD'N CHANGE 'A HEART?
HEH, HEH. YOU STILL A REPORTER FOR THE WEEKLY WORLD PROBE, SQUIBB? HEH, HEH, HEH.
YEAH. YOU OK, DEWLEY? YOU AIN'T STRUNG OUT ON DRUGZ OR SOMETHIN', ARE YA'?
HEH, HEH, HEH. NO. I'M FINE. HEH, HEH, HEH. LISTEN...I GOT HIS PICTURE, SQUIBB! HEH, HEH, HEH!
YOU AIN'T MAKIN' NO SENSE! WHO'S PICTURE, DEWLEY?
HEH, HEH! HIS! HEH, HEH, HEH!
HIS? YOU MEAN... YOU HAVE A PICTURE 'A GOD?!
HEH, HEH, HEH. NOT GOD, SSSQUIBB...I TOOK A PICTURE... OF SATAN! HEH, HEH, HEH!

OH, COME ON, MAN! YOU EXPECT ME 'TA BELIEVE 'DAT?! 'DA ONLY TIME I HEAR @#*☆! LIKE 'DAT IS WHEN WE MAKES IT UP AT 'DA PROBE!
HEH, HEH! HEH, HEH, HEH! DON'T REALLY MATTER IF YOU BELIEVE ME OR NOT, MR. MELVIN SSSSQUIIBB! HEH, HEH, HEH!
YER' CRAZY, DEWLEY! GET SOME HELP! AN' DON'T WASTE MY TIME A'GIN!
I GOT HIS PICTURE, SSSSSQUIIBB! HEH, HEH, HEH! A REAL PICTURE OF SATAN! HEH, HEH, HEH! IT HAS TO BE WORTH SOME REAL BIG BUCKS!
MY MIND'S TELLIN' ME TO WALK 'DA @#☆! AWAY FROM 'DIS SCUM, BUT MY GUT'S TELLIN' ME 'DARE'S MORE TO 'DIS STORY 'DEN MEETS 'DA EYE.
WELL, YOU GONNA' SHOW ME 'DIS PICTURE 'A SATAN, OR JUST KEEP TALKIN' ABOUT IT?
I WANT TEN GRAND IF YOU PRINT THIS IN THE PROBE. YOU UNDERSTAND ME, SSSSSQUIIBB?
I'LL GET BACK WITH YA'! LATER, DEWSTER!
MAN, 'DAT DUDE GIVES ME 'DA CREEPS. I'Z OUTTA' HERE!
HEH, HEH, HEH! HEH, HEH, HEH, HEH. HEH, HEH!

NEARBY, AT ST. MICHAEL'S HOSPITAL...
DAMN IT, CLAIRE! WE'RE TOO LATE!
THIS IS REALLY WEIRD! I TOLD CAIMAN SOMETHING BAD WAS GONNA' HAPPEN AT THE HOSPITAL SO HE'D TAKE ME WITH HIM TO INVESTIGATE...AN' I COULD MEET ALLI! I DIDN'T REALLY SENSE ANYTHING WAS WRONG AT ALL!
HEY CAIMAN! OVER HERE!
WHAT THE HELL'S HAPPENING, BOBBY! WHERE'S THE GIRL?
WE'RE STILL TRYIN' TA' FIGURE IT OUT. ALL WE KNOW SO FAR IS THAT TEN MINUTES AGO A NURSE WENT TO CHECK UP ON HER, AND THE GIRL WAS GONE!
WELL' WHERE THE HELL COULD SHE POSSIBLY HAVE GONE? SHE WAS RECOVERING FROM SURGERY! SHE JUST HAD A BULLET PULLED OUTTA' HER CHEST! SHE WAS HARDLY IN ANY CONDITION TO WALK OUTTA' HERE ON HER OWN! AN' SHE COULDN'T HAVE LEFT WITHOUT SOMEONE SEEIN' HER!
LISTEN, RODNEY, YER' NOT TELLIN' US ANYTHING WE DON'T ALREADY KNOW! WE'RE DOIN' THE BEST WE CAN! IT'S BAFFLING!
I'M PICKING UP A STRONG AFTER-PRESENCE FROM ALLI MOORE. I NEED TO TOUCH SOMETHING THAT BELONGED TO HER...TO HELP ME FOCUS.
HER BED! THAT'S WHERE THE HIGHEST CONCENTRATION OF HER AFTER-PRESENCE SHOULD BE!

ALLI HEALED HERSELF SO SHE COULD LEAVE.
SHE PROJECTED HER SOUL OUT OF HER BODY! BUT...IT'S NOT ALLI'S SOUL! IT'S ELIZABETH'S! OH, MY GAWD...ELIZABETH HAS STOLEN ALLI MOORE'S BODY!
ELIZABETH POSSESSED A NURSE TO BRING HER A NURSES UNIFORM! THAT'S HOW SHE WAS ABLE TO LEAVE THE HOSPITAL UNNOTICED!
SHE'S GOING TO SEE PERG! IF I HURRY, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO PICK UP THE TRAIL OF HER AFTER-PRESENCE AND FOLLOW HER!
NOTE: SEE PERG #8 FOR DETAILS!
THE GIRL I'M WITH IS A PSYCHIC. MAYBE SHE CAN COME UP WITH AN EXPLANATION.
?!
I HATE IT WHEN SHE DISAPPEARS LIKE THAT!

AS I WAIT FOR MY SENTENCE OF SOLITUDE TO END SO I MAY ONCE AGAIN GO FORTH UNTO THE WORLD, I QUESTION MY ABILITY TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF EVIL.
THIS CROSS WAS PLACED ON MY CHEST BY THE PEOPLE OF CHICAGO SO MY EVIL WOULD NOT RETURN FROM THE GRAVE!
GOD AND LUCIFER ALLOWED ME TO RISE FROM THE DEAD, AGREEING THAT NEITHER WOULD USE THEIR INFLUENCE TO CONTROL MY DESTINY. I WAS NOT CLEANSED, BUT LUCIFER'S CONTINUED MANIPULATION OF MY SOUL WAS PREVENTED.
I AM A PUPPET WHO'S STRINGS HAVE BEEN SEVERED.
MY MISSION IS TO FREE THOSE NOW CONTROLLED BY MY FORMER MASTER.

AND THIS IS WHAT I USE... TO CUT THEIR STRINGS.
BY PLUNGING THIS TWISTED CROSS INTO THE FOREHEADS OF EVILDOERS, I FREE THEM OF LUCIFER'S INFLUENCE... AND ATTEMPT TO REDEEM MYSELF IN THE EYES OF THE LORD.
YET, SOMEHOW, THE VERY ACT OF CLEANSING THEM SEEMS... WRONG. PERHAPS IT IS THEIR EXPECTATION OF DEATH... OR THE TERROR IN THEIR EYES BEFORE I CLEANSE THEM... THAT GIVES ME AN UNWANTED FEELING OF PLEASURE.
PLEASURE THAT IS WRONG FOR ME TO FEEL!
I AM FORCED TO BE IN SOLITUDE DURING THE DAY. AT NIGHT I PURSUE MY FIGHT AGAINST EVIL. YET, WHAT EFFECT HAVE I TRULY HAD? EVERY NIGHT THERE APPEARS TO BE JUST AS MUCH EVIL AS THE NIGHT BEFORE!
OH, ELIZABETH, I MISS YOU SO MUCH.
THE WAIT IS OVER, MY LOVE!
THAT VOICE... COULD IT BE?!

ELIZABETH, IT IS TRULY YOU?
YES, RAMEN, I COULD STAY AWAY NO LONGER.
WHAT TREACHERY NOW UNFOLDS?! ELIZABETH DUMONT...HAS TAKEN OVER ALLI MOORE'S BODY?! THIS VIOLATES MY AGREEMENT WITH GOD! HE MUST ANSWER FOR HIS INTERFERENCE!
UNTIL THEN...NATHAN, YOU CAN HAVE YOUR MOUTH BACK! I NEED TO HEAR YOU SCREAM!
HA! HA! HA! HA!
NEXT ISSUE:
REVELATION!
DON'T MISS IT!

THIS CANNOT BE ALLOWED! IT IS A BREACH OF OUR CONTRACT! ELIZABETH DUMONT MUST LEAVE ALLI MOORE'S BODY IMMEDIATELY OR SHE WILL SUFFER THE FULL TORMENT OF MY FURY!
STOP WITH YOUR IDLE THREATS, OH VILE ONE! ELIZABETH DUMONT HAS ONLY DONE WHAT SHE BELIEVED TO BE IN THE INTEREST OF LOVE. IN MY KINGDOM WE PLACE GREAT VALUE ON COMPASSION AND CARING.
SILENCE!
YOU DARE RIDICULE ME?! BY HER VISITING PERG IN THIS MANNER, SHE HAS MADE A MOCKERY OF OUR AGREEMENT...AN AGREEMENT THAT YOU...THE PIOUS LORD ALMIGHTY HELPED TO FORGE!
WHILE WE BOTH KNOW YOUR ARGUMENT IS SELF-SERVING, YOUR REFERENCE TO OUR AGREEMENT...I MUST RELUCTANTLY ADMIT... DOES RING TRUE.
ELIZABETH DUMONT HAS VIOLATED THE SPIRIT OF OUR CONTRACT...IF NOT THE LETTER. THEREFORE, BEING UNABLE TO DISAGREE WITH YOUR OBJECTION, I SHALL ARRANGE FOR HER RETURN TO HEAVEN...WHENEVER I GET AROUND TO SELECTING AN APPROPRIATE ANGEL TO RETRIEVE HER.
I IMPLORE YOU, OH EXALTED ONE, DO SO WITHOUT FURTHER TESTING MY PATIENCE! THE THOUGHT OF PERG AND ELIZABETH TOGETHER AGAIN...SHE SATISFYING HIS THIRST FOR NURTURING...HE GROVELING IN THE ECSTASY OF HER PRESENCE...IS ENOUGH TO MAKE ME VOMIT!
PERG MUST SUFFER ALONE ON EARTH! HE CANNOT HAVE HIS ELIZABETH! THE LONGER THEY ARE TOGETHER...

"...THE MORE THEIR LOVE CONSUMMATES ITSELF!"
PERG AND HIS CHERISHED ELIZABETH SHARE A BOND SO INTENSE IT TRANSCENDS THE BOUNDARIES OF TIME AND SPACE.
ELIZABETH RISKED ETERNAL DAMNATION OF HER SOUL BY RETURNING TO EARTH. SHE IS WELL AWARE THIS REUNION IS FORBIDDEN BY THE CREATOR HIMSELF!
ELIZABETH, IS IT TRULY YOU?
YES, RAMEN, IT IS. I COULD STAY AWAY NO LONGER...
BUT...HOW? HOW IS IT POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO BE HERE...STANDING BEFORE ME AS IF YESTERYEAR AND TODAY HAVE BECOME ONE?!
LIGHTNING COMICS PRESENTS...
REVELATION!

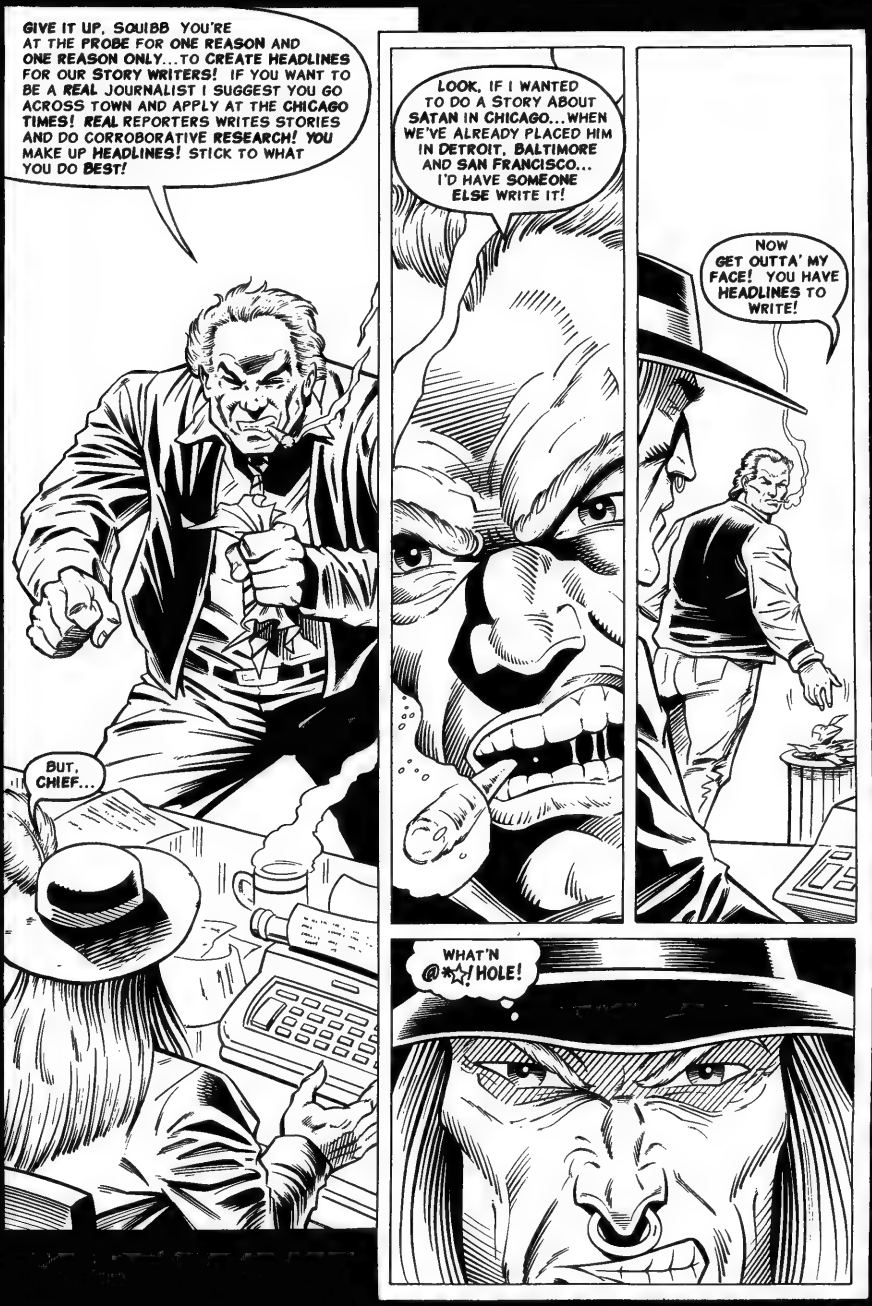
THAT IS UNIMPORTANT, MY LOVE. ALL THAT MATTERS IS THAT I AM HERE...ABLE TO TOUCH YOU...FEEL YOU...BE WITH YOU AGAIN.
BUT, ELIZABETH, DEAR, IT DOES MATTER TO ME! HOW ARE YOU ABLE TO STAND BEFORE ME FOR A SECOND TIME...WHEN YOUR LIFE ENDED OVER A CENTURY AGO?
MY LOVE... BE PATIENT. I WILL TRY TO EXPLAIN.
THE SPIRIT OF THE BODY YOU SEE BEFORE YOU...WHICH YOU KNEW AS ALLI MOORE...VACATED THIS VESSEL TO ENTER THE HOLY FATHER'S KINGDOM. I SEIZED THE OPPORTUNITY TO FILL THE VOID SHE LEFT BEHIND... TO BE WITH YOU, AT YOUR SIDE, ONCE AGAIN.*
*SEE PERG #8 & #9 FOR DETAILS!

THEN, YOU KNOW ABOUT ALLI...YOU KNOW OF MY UNCHASTE FEELINGS FOR HER!
I AM TRULY SORRY, ELIZABETH. I MEANT NO DISRESPECT TO YOUR MEMORY BY FALLING IN LOVE WITH HER.
PLEASE, RAMEN, STOP. YOU NEEDN'T BE SORRY FOR YOUR FEELINGS...THEY ARE UNDERSTANDABLE. BUT NOW YOU MUST SET THEM ASIDE. ALLI MOORE HAS BECOME PART OF THE PAST...
...WHILE WE FORM A NEW BOND...
...AND FORGE AHEAD, INTO THE FUTURE...
"...TOGETHER!"

IN ANOTHER PART OF CHICAGO...
CLAIRE!
CLAIRE!
DAMN IT... WAIT UP!
POLICE
SORRY, CAIMAN... NO CAN DO! I MUST FOLLOW THIS PSYCHIC TRAIL, WHILE IT'S STILL FRESH!
STOP RUNNIN'! NOW YOU BETTER DO SOME QUICK EXPLAININ', 'CAUSE YER STARTIN' TA TICK ME OFF!

IT'S ELIZABETH! YOU KNOW...PERG'S LOST LOVE! SHE SOMEHOW MANAGED TO POSSESS ALLI MOORE'S BODY BACK THERE AT THE HOSPITAL...AND MY PSYCHIC VISIONS SHOW ME THAT SHE'S HEADED STRAIGHT TO SEE HIM!*
* SEE PERG #8 AND #9 FOR DETAILS.
WELL... LEAD THE WAY, LADY!
CAIMAN... THEY'RE IN THERE...
...IN THAT ABANDONED CHURCH!

ACROSS TOWN AT THE WEEKLY WORLD PROBE, THE QUESTION OF PERG'S EXISTENCE CAUSES QUITE A STIR...
HEY, SQUIBB? WHAT'S THIS @#*☆!? MORE GHOST PICTURES 'TA LITTER UP MY DESK?
NO, CHIEF! 'DIS COULD MAKE FOR SOME HOT COPY! IT'S A PICTURE 'A SATAN HIMSELF! HE MADE A PERZINAL APPEARANCE ON 'DA EAST SIDE...
CAN IT! WE'VE COVERED #*☆! LIKE THAT FOR THE PAST SIX ISSUES! REMEMBER..."SEWER RAT SPEAKS IN TONGUES?" "GRANNEY ONLY KNITS 666?" WHAT WE NEED IS NEW MATERIAL!
BUT, CHIEF... 'DA GUY WHO GAVE 'DIS TO ME SAW SATAN FIRST HAND!


GIVE IT UP, SQUIBB YOU'RE AT THE PROBE FOR ONE REASON AND ONE REASON ONLY...TO CREATE HEADLINES FOR OUR STORY WRITERS! IF YOU WANT TO BE A REAL JOURNALIST I SUGGEST YOU GO ACROSS TOWN AND APPLY AT THE CHICAGO TIMES! REAL REPORTERS WRITES STORIES AND DO CORROBORATIVE RESEARCH! YOU MAKE UP HEADLINES! STICK TO WHAT YOU DO BEST!
BUT, CHIEF...
LOOK, IF I WANTED TO DO A STORY ABOUT SATAN IN CHICAGO...WHEN WE'VE ALREADY PLACED HIM IN DETROIT, BALTIMORE AND SAN FRANCISCO... I'D HAVE SOMEONE ELSE WRITE IT!
NOW GET OUTTA' MY FACE! YOU HAVE HEADLINES TO WRITE!
WHAT'N @*☆! HOLE!

MEANWHILE, PERG AND ELIZABETH CONTINUE THEIR REACQUAINTANCE AFTER A CENTURY OF SEPARATION...
WHILE MY ONE TRUE LOVE HAS RETURNED TO ME...SOMETHING ABOUT HER RAISES CAUSE FOR CONCERN. PERHAPS IT IS HER VAGUENESS ABOUT ALLI...OR HER HESITATION TO EXPLAIN HOW SHE WAS ABLE TO DEPART FROM HEAVEN.
WHY CAN'T I JUST ACCEPT HER REAPPEARANCE FOR THE JOY IT BRINGS...AND SET ASIDE MY UNEASINESS?
RAMEN, LET US LEAVE THIS PLACE AND BEGIN ANEW TO MAKE UP FOR THE TIME WE'VE BEEN APART.
SOON WE CAN LEAVE THESE PREMISES, MY DEAR, BUT FIRST... TELL ME AGAIN HOW YOU WERE ABLE TO RETURN TO ME.
WHY MUST I REPEAT MYSELF OVER AND OVER? IS IT NOT ENOUGH THAT WE ARE SIMPLY HERE, TOGETHER AGAIN?!
LUCIFER USED ALLI AS A TOOL OF REVENGE AGAINST ME ONCE BEFORE... COULD IT BE HE IS USING ELIZABETH, NOW?
RAMEN...THE FACT THAT I'M HERE PROVES I WOULD DO ANYTHING FOR YOU! PLEASE, MY LOVE...JUST ACCEPT ME.

ATTENTION! I AM MICHAEL, SENTINEL OF PEACE, AND ARCHANGEL TO GOD! I HAVE BEEN SENT BY THE ALMIGHTY CREATOR OF HEAVEN AND EARTH...TO RETURN ELIZABETH DUMONT TO HIS KINGDOM!
WHAT?!
BE GONE, SENTINEL! ELIZABETH IS NOT LEAVING MY SIDE! BY GOD'S GRACE SHE HAS RETURNED TO ME! I WILL NOT ALLOW YOU OR ANYONE TO COME BETWEEN US!
DO NOT INTERFERE, RAMEN ALEXANDER PERG. IN THAT WHICH YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND! YOUR SOUL IS ALREADY AT RISK!
INTERFERE?! HOW DARE YOU SPEAK OF INTERFERENCE WHEN IT IS YOU WHO COMES TO FORSAKE OUR LOVE?! DO YOU NOT UNDERSTAND THAT I WOULD GLADLY FORFEIT MY SOUL TO SPEND ETERNITY WITH ELIZABETH?!
THAT IS INDEED REGRETTABLE, PERG. GOD HAD SUCH HIGH HOPES FOR YOU! HE WILL BE DISAPPOINTED TO LEARN OF YOUR BLASPHEMY.

ELIZABETH DUMONT, THE LORD GOD HAS SPOKEN! YOUR SOUL MUST RETURN TO HEAVEN...
...AND I SHALL SEE TO IT THAT IT DOES!
RAMEN! I... I'M TRAPPED! HELP ME!
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO HER, SENTINEL?! WHY DO YOU PERSIST IN KEEPING US APART? COULD IT BE YOU ARE NOT AN ANGEL AFTER ALL... BUT A DEMON SENT FROM THE BOWELS OF HELL TO TORMENT US?!
FOUL-MOUTHED DOLT! YOU, WHOSE SOUL SAUNTERS ON THE VERGE OF DISPAIR, DARE COMPARE ME TO ONE OF LUCIFER'S FILTHY MINIONS?! YOU HAVE NO GRASP OF THE GRAVITY OF THIS SITUATION! YOU STAND IN DEFIANCE OF GOD'S PROCLAMATION AND SPIT WORDS OF INDIGNANCE FROM YOUR TONGUE! STAND ASIDE, RAMEN PERG, YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO INERFERE!

ENOUCH!
I HAVE GIVEN YOU WARNING, SENTINEL, AND I DO NOT MAKE IDLE THREATS! ELIZABETH WILL NOT BE TAKEN FROM ME AGAINST HER WILL OR WITHOUT A FIGHT!
SLEESH
SLEESH

OUTSIDE THE ABANDONED CHURCH...
CLAIRE, YOU'RE SURE ABOUT THIS, RIGHT? I MEAN, I'M GONNA LOOK PRETTY STUPID BREAKING INTO A CHURCH IF THE GIRL ISN'T HERE!
BE REAL, CAIMAN! HAVE I EVER LET YOU DOWN BEFORE?
THAT'S ALL I WANTED TO HEAR!
WHAM!
VOILA'... LADIES FIRST!
I NEVER KNEW YOU WERE SUCH A GENTLEMAN.
WHOA!
CLAIRE, WHAT'S WRONG?
I...I DON'T FEEL TOO GOOD.
SORRY, CAI, BUT YOU'RE GONNA' HAVE TA' GO THE REST OF THE WAY ON YOUR OWN.
THERE'S SOME SORT OF PSYCHIC DEFENSE BARRIER! THE MORE I ENTER THE CHURCH...THE MORE MY HEAD STARTS POUNDIN'!
STAY PUT, OK? NO DISAPPEARIN' ACT THIS TIME!
YEAH, WHATEVER.

WITHIN THE ABANDONED CHURCH, THE BATTLE CONTINUES...
YOU CLAIM TO BE A SERVANT OF GOD YET YOUR ACTIONS ARE UNFITTING FOR AN ANGEL! WHY WOULD GOD WANT TO SEPARATE ME FROM MY ELIZABETH? WHY WOULD HE TAUNT ME WITH SUCH CRUELTY?
WHAT RIGHT DO YOU HAVE TO QUESTION GOD'S MOTIVES?! HE IS GOD, PERG, AND HE HAS SPOKEN!
HIS WILL MUST BE DONE...
WHAT?!
...ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN!
WHAT THE...?!

YOU HAVE CAUSED CONSIDERABLE TURMOIL, ELIZABETH. YOU EARNED YOUR WAY INTO HEAVEN YET CHOSE TO DISOBEY THE WORD OF GOD BY RETURNING TO PERG'S SIDE.
YOU NEVER LIVED ON EARTH, SENTINEL. AS AN ANGEL CREATED BY GOD, YOU ARE A WHOLE BEING. BUT, ME? I'M ONLY HALF A SOUL...AND RAMEN IS MY OTHER HALF.
IT IS THAT TYPE OF THINKING THAT HAS ALLOWED YOU TO BECOME ONE OF LUCIFER'S PAWNS!
WHAT... WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
ONLY WHAT YOU ALREADY KNOW! YOU ARE NOT MEANT TO BE HERE, ELIZABETH! LUCIFER WANTS PERG'S SOUL AND PERG WILL FOLLOW YOU WHEREVER YOU GO. EVEN IF YOU GO TO HELL! DON'T ALLOW LUCIFER TO CORRUPT YOU WITH PROMISES OF ETERNAL LOVE. YOU WILL BE WITH PERG SOON ENOUGH. BUT NOW YOU MUST RETURN WITH ME TO THE HOLY FATHER'S KINGDOM!

HOW...HOW COULD I HAVE BEEN SO BLIND?
GIVE ME YOUR HAND, ELIZABETH.
IT IS TIME FOR US TO GO.
ARGG!
AWAY FROM HER, VILLAIN! ELIZABETH IS GOING NOWHERE!

BLASPHEMOUS DOLT! YOU SHALL STAND IN THE WAY OF GOD'S WILL NO MORE!
YEEAAARRG!
FZAM!
LORD HAVE MERCY ON ME...
...FOR I HAVE TAKEN THE LIFE OF A MORTAL!

Wha?
CRASH
Ohhhh...

YOU ARE A WORTHY ADVERSARY, MICHAEL, BUT YOU UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER OF LOVE.
ELIZABETH AND I SHALL REMAIN TOGETHER...DESPITE YOUR EFFORTS!
DO NOT BE AFRAID. YOUR CLEANSING WILL BRING YOU EVEN CLOSER TO THE GOD YOU CLAIM TO SERVE!
RAMEN STOP! YOU'LL DESTROY HIM!
BE STILL, ELIZABETH! MY CLEANSING DAGGER WILL BANISH THE EVIL THAT DWELLS WITHIN THIS BEING. HE WILL NOT BE DESTROYED!
BUT WHAT IF THERE IS NO EVIL TO CLEANSE?!
ELIZABETH... WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

MY LOVE... PLEASE FORGIVE ME...FOR I HAVE BETRAYED YOU.
WHAT MADNESS NOW POSSESSES YOU? BETRAYED ME? HOW? YOU HAVE COME TO ME...SO WE MAY BE TOGETHER AGAIN!
BUT, RAMEN, THAT WAS WRONG. I HAVE DISOBEYED GOD...AND I HAVE CAUSED YOU TO BATTLE THE ARCHANGEL, MICHAEL. MY DESIRE TO BE WITH YOU HAS LED ME DOWN A DARK PATH...A PATH THAT COULD LEAD STRAIGHT TO HELL...
...AND LUCIFER KNOWS THAT IF HE GETS ME, YOU WILL SOON FOLLOW.
ELIZABETH, YOU ARE TALKING NONSENSE...
NO, RAMEN...I AM TALKING PERFECT SENSE. ONLY MOMENTS AGO YOU WOULD HAVE HEARD THE TRUTH IN MY VOICE. I MUST RETURN TO HEAVEN... IF THEY WILL ACCEPT ME AGAIN.
KNOW THAT I LOVE YOU, RAMEN. I HAVE ALWAYS LOVED YOU...AND I ALWAYS WILL. AND KNOW TOO, THAT YOU ARE HERE NOT ONLY TO FIGHT EVIL THAT REIGNS WITHIN THE CITY OF CHICAGO...YOU ARE HERE TO CLEANSE THE EVIL THAT LIES WITHIN YOURSELF.
"GOOD-BYE MY LOVE."
"PLEASE FORGIVE ME."

"ONCE MORE, I AM ALONE."
"ELIZABETH, MY BEAUTIFUL, BRAVE SOUL...I LOVE YOU..."
"...AND I WILL SEE YOU AGAIN...IN HEAVEN."
THE END?
PLEASE SEE LETTERS PAGE.

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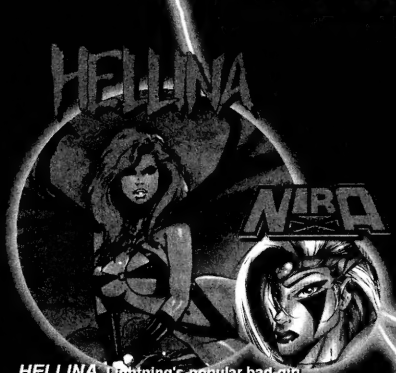
LIGHTNING STRIKES IN 1996!

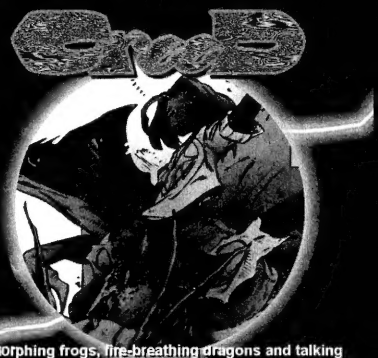
Here's the skinny on our 1996 schedule. It's mean. It's tough. And most of all, we believe it's loaded with some of the best new material in the market. The industry's most talented creators are bringing their cutting edge projects to Lightning. Why? Because we're through bein' the nice guys waitin' for a parade to happen. This year, the ass kicking begins! Our advice to you ... join the party!

Here's a small preview of Lightning's

HOT PICKS for '96:

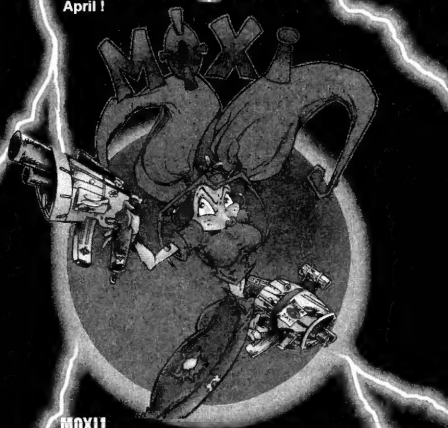


HELLINA, Lightning's popular bad-girl vigilante, will have at least five new comics including, Hellina: Heart of Thorns #1 & #2 (June, August) and Hellina: Hell's Angel #1 (Oct.) Hellina will also be featured in a major crossover with Entity Comics' NIRA X: CYBER ANGEL in July. Both Lightning and Entity will release separate crossover comics.



Morphing frogs, fire-breathing dragons and talking daisies make CreeD one of the most exciting new comics of the decade. 18-year old creator-owner, Trent Kaniuga, will release ***CreeD*** #3 in **June** and launch an all new mini-series in September! Also, look for CreeD Chromium trading cards, a CreeD #1/2 from Wizard: The Guide to Comics and a CreeD / TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES crossover in April!

In May, Image artist, JOHN CLEARY presents his first-ever creator owned title, ***SINJA!*** Cleary's artwork is absolutely stunning and his gritty story about a 16th Century ninja takes a new direction. Cleary's imaginative new style will make SINJA a winner in 1996! Don't be left in the dark!



MOXI!

She's incredibly MISCHIEVOUS! She's undeniably HIP! Get ready for the RIDE OF YOUR LIFE! Creator/owner Bill McEvoy's MOXI makes her FULL COLOR DEBUT this June in an exciting one shot and then gets her own full color mini-series in October!

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SINJA ™&©1996 John Cleary. CREED ™&©1996 Trent Kaniuga.
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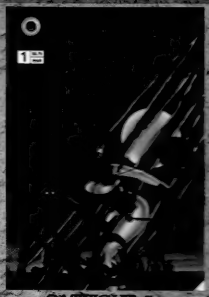

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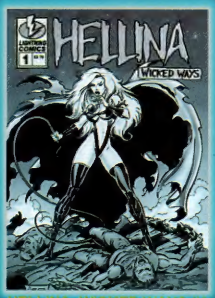

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